



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

22 Bridge St, Third Floor  
PO Box 1444  
Concord, NH 03302

Aubrey R. Davis, Director  
[www.usda.gov/nass](http://www.usda.gov/nass)

603-224-9639  
Fax: 603-225-1434  
[nass-nh@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-nh@nass.usda.gov)



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## USDA TO MEASURE 2003 HONEY PRODUCTION

As you know, bees are of the utmost importance to the pollination of many crops and for the supply of honey available to consumers. More than 90 crops depend on honeybee pollination, yet honeybees are constantly under siege from mites and disease-causing pathogens. Considering these issues, it is especially important to obtain accurate statistics about the size of the bee and honey industry in New England and across the Nation.

**USDA's Bee and Honey survey is the only chance to measure the bee and honey industry in New England for 2003.** This annual survey establishes official USDA statistics for the number of colonies, pounds of honey produced, and stocks on hand across the Nation. The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is responsible for conducting this survey across all six States in the region. In early December, approximately 400 New England apiarists will receive questionnaires in the mail, and in mid-December non-respondents will be phoned and asked to help with this important project. The results of the survey are used by honey producers, pollinators, farmers, grower associations, extension specialists, suppliers, lenders, and lawmakers when reviewing farm practices and policies. As with all surveys conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, **individual reports are kept strictly confidential and used only with other reports for statistical purposes.**

National survey results will be released in the **Honey** report from Washington, D.C. at 3:00 p.m. on February 27, 2004. All reports are available on the Internet at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/) within minutes of the scheduled release time. New England statistics are also reprinted in the March issue of the **Ag Review**. This monthly New England newsletter is available on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/nh/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh/) and complimentary copies are also mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, it is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six States in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at [nass-nh@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-nh@nass.usda.gov). All National statistics and State level newsletters are available through free e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/).]

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**For More Information Contact: Emily McAllister at 1-800-642-9571.**